

Introduction

Alice falls down a rabbit's hole. She has a magical adventure and meets many strange characters. Some of them are:



The Dodo

The dodo was a large bird that could not fly. It lived only on the island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean.

The Mad Hatter

A hatter is a person whose job is to make hats. Hatters used a chemical containing mercury. As the hatters worked, they breathed in the chemical. It affected their brains and made them ill. If someone acts crazy, people say that he or she is 'as mad as a hatter'.



The Cheshire Cat

Cheshire cheese is a type of cheese that was made in the shape of a cat. It had a big smile. The cheese was made in Cheshire, a place in England. As you ate the cheese, the 'cat' slowly disappeared. Sometimes, the smile was the last bit eaten.



The Mock Turtle

The Mock Turtle was not a real turtle. ‘Mock’ means ‘fake’ (not real). Turtle soup was very expensive. So people made ‘mock’, or fake, turtle soup. Mock turtle soup was actually made out of a young cow’s head.



About Lewis Carroll

Lewis Carroll was the pen name of Charles Dodgson. Charles Dodgson was born in 1832 in England. He was a teacher of mathematics.

One summer day in 1862, Dodgson was out with some friends. They were rowing a boat on the river. It was very hot. They decided to rest in a shady place. Three little girls, Alice, Edith and Lorina Liddell, were with them. While they were resting, ten-year-old Alice asked Dodgson to tell a story. He made up the story as he was telling it. Later, he wrote it down as *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*. The book was very successful. Later, he wrote another book about Alice called *Through the Looking Glass*.

Dodgson enjoyed word games and puzzles. He used some of them in *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*. One type of word game he used was a riddle. Here is one of Dodgson’s riddles:

*‘Dreaming of apples on a wall,
And dreaming often dear,
I dreamed, that if I counted all,
How many would appear?’*

Can you guess the answer? Hint: Look carefully at the words in line 2.

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Down the Rabbit Hole

A rabbit with a watch

Alice had nothing to do. She was sitting by the river with her big sister, but that was not interesting. Once or twice she looked at the book her sister was reading. There were no pictures in it. 'What good is a book without pictures?' Alice thought. 5

It was very hot and she felt tired. Then, quite suddenly, she saw a rabbit. It was a white rabbit and it had pink eyes. It ran close by her.

This was not very strange, Alice thought. She knew that lots of rabbits lived near the river. 10

Then Alice heard the rabbit speak. He said to himself, 'Oh dear, oh dear, I am going to be late.' Alice was not too surprised. She thought all animals could speak. 15

